

Minutes
Delaware Council of Faith-Based Partnerships Meeting
Tuesday, January 13, 2015
1-3 pm
Phone Meeting
(January 6th meeting cancelled due to inclement weather.)

Attendees: Jen Hill, Doug Gerdts, Michael Beals, John Moore, Usman Sandhu, Max Wolf, Flora McConkie, Kenny Foster, Jeanne Cashman, Raina Harper Allen and Kenny Foster.

The phone meeting was called to order by Doug at approx. 1:05 pm.

Minutes of November meeting approved.

“Lunch and Learn” series update. Gary Hecker of Delaware State Housing Authority confirmed for March. Jay Lynch tentative, I-ADAPT for April, probably in Smyrna. Matt Denn suggested for May, with possible topics of foster care, new crime initiatives. Lunch and Learns to be held prior to Council meetings, 12-1 pm, first Tuesday of the month (March, April, May and September, October, November). Council meetings to be held 1-2:30 pm on Lunch and Learn days.

Brief discussion on I-ADAPT/Re-Entry. Flora to follow-up with Jay Lynch on possible “next steps” for Council.

Extensive discussion regarding recent terrorist incidents in Europe and need for interfaith dialogue and understanding. Two recent News Journal items mentioned (opinion piece by Dr. M. A. Muqtedar Khan, associate professor of Islam and Global Affairs in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Delaware on “Muslims, West need a more honest engagement” and letter to editor from Muslim and Islamic organizations of Delaware). Mention also made of upcoming community event (not sponsored by Council) on the issue. Suggestion that Council be represented at meeting.

Council considered possible responses to times of crisis, such as letter to editor, news story, or statement for the press. Also long-term possibilities of interfaith activities for youth/children. Need for modeling of interfaith dialogue, awareness, education. Council’s early meetings set tone of respect.

Decision made to approach Governor’s office to “share the Council story” through a news release or news conference, informing community of Council efforts and interfaith friendships developed. Doug to call Governor regarding.

Next meeting. Tuesday, February 3, 2015.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 1:55pm.

Submitted by Flora McConkie, DCFBP Secretary, February 3, 2015.